

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 6963

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, NATO, UNGA, NAC, GQ

SUBJECT: WESTERN EUROPEAN CAUCUS IN NEW YORK

REFS: (A) US NATO 6951

(B) STATE 301104

1. SUMMARY:

IN NEW YORK, WESTERN EUROPEANS CAUCUS IN THREE GROUPS:
THE WESTERN EUROPEANS AND OTHEERS GROUP (WEO), THE VINCI
GROUP AND THE EC-9 GROUP. WHILE THERE IS NO PURELY NATO CAUCUS
IN NEW YORK, THE WEO VINCI GROUPS PROVIDE FOR MEETINGS
OF ALL NATO MEMBERS ALBEIT IN THE COMPANY OF OTHERS. IT
SHOULD BE NOTED IN THIS CONNECTION THAT THE WEO GROUP MEETS
PRIMARILY TO ENDORSE WEO CANDIDACIES FOR UNITED NATIONS
(UN) BODIES AND THAT THE VINCI GROUP IS ONE PRIMARILY FOR
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EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION AND VIEWS. USUN DOES NOT ATTEND

EC-9 MEETINGS BUT MAINTAINS CLOSE BILATERAL CONTACT WITH EC-9 MEMBERS. THE VINCI GROUP CONSIDERS SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES OF A POLITICAL, ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL CONTEXT AS DISTINCT FROM QUESTIONS OF CANDIDACIES. DURING THE RECENT 30TH UNGA SESSION, USUN PUT FORTH ITS VIEWS IN THE VINCI GROUP ON QUESTIONS SUCH AS ZIONISM, PLO, AND DECOLONIZATION. END SUMMARY.

2. THE WESTERN EUROPEANS AND OTHER GROUP: THIS GROUP HAS AS MEMBERS WESTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES (INCLUDING MALTA, BUT EXCLUDING CYPRUS), PLUS CANADA, AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND. ADDITIONALLY, AT AMBASSADORIAL-LEVEL MEETINGS, THE U.S., SWITZERLAND AND THE HOLY SEE ATTEND AS OBSERVERS. AMBASSADORIAL-LEVEL WEO MEETINGS CONSIDER PRIMARILY GROUP ENDORSEMENTS OF WEO CANDIDACIES FOR UN BODIES SUCH AS THE SECURITY COUNCIL, THE INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE, THE PRESIDENCY AND VICE PRESIDENCIES OF THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY (UNGA), CHAIRMEN, VICE CHAIRMEN AND RAPPORTEURS OF UNGA COMMITTEES, AS WELL AS OTHER UN BODIES. AT WORKING-LEVEL WEO MEETINGS, THE U.S. PARTICIPATES FULLY. THESE MEETINGS REGULARLY CONSIDER UNGA COMMITTEE TWO (ECONOMIC), FIVE (ADMINISTRATIVE) AND SIX (LEGAL) QUESTIONS BUT ONLY OCCASIONALLY COMMITTEE ONE (POLITICAL), COMMITTEE BUSINESS.

3. VINCE GROUP: THIS AMBASSADORIAL-LEVEL GROUP, NAMED IN HONOR OF ITS ORGANIZER WHO IS AGAIN ITALY'S PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE TO THE UN, INCLUDES THE WEO GROUP MEMBERS PLUS THE U.S. AND JAPAN AS FULL PARTICIPANTS. THE HOLY SEE AND SEITZERLAND PARTICIPATE AS OBSERVERS. THE VINCI GROUP CONSIDERS SUBSTANTIVE MATTERS OF A POLITICAL, ECONOMIC OR SOCIAL CONTEXT AS DISTINCT FROM QUESTIONS OF CANDIDACIES. WHILE THE 30TH UNGA WAS IN SESSION, THE VINCI GROUP DISCUSSED QUESTIONS SUCH AS ZIONISM, THE PLO, TIMOR, KOREA, AND DE-COLONIZATION. IN THE MATTER CONNECTION, ON DECEMBER 2, FOR EXAMPLE, AMBASSADOR BENNETT STRESSED TO THE VINCI GROUP THE FALSITIES AND IMPROPRIETIES OF THE GUAM, OMNIBUS DECOLONIZATION, AND DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION ON DECOLONIZATION RESOLUTIONS.

4. THE EC-9 GROUP: WHILE USUN MAINTAINS CLOSE BILATERAL CONTACTS WITH MEMBERS OF THE EC-9 GROUP, WE DO NOT ATTEND THEIR CONFIDENTIAL

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MEETINS. THIS GROUP MET VERY REGULARLY AT DIFFERENT LEVELS DURING THE RECENT SESSION OF THE 30TH UNGA. IT SEEKS PARTICULARLY TO ESTABLISH EC-9 VOTING POSITIONS ON ISSUES. DURING THE 30TH UNGA, HOWEVER, THERE WERE SPLITS IN THE NINE ON A GREAT MANY ITEMS, INCLUDING DECOLONIZATION, PALESTINE AND THE MIDDLE EAST.

5. COMMENT: WHILE THERE IS NO NATO CAUCUS IN NEW YORK, THE WEO AND VINCI GROUPS PROVIDE FOR MEETINGS OF ALL NATO MEMBERS, ALBEIT

IN THE COMPANY OF OTHERS. IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT, WHILE THE
WEO GROUP MEET WITH A VIEW TO FIXING POSITIONS ON CANDIDACIES
AND THE EC-9 GROUP SEEKS TO ESTABLISH COMMON VOTING
POSITIONS, THE VINCI GROUP IS ONE PRIMARILY FOR EXCHANGE
OF INFORMATION AND VIEWS.
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